

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

A call was placed to Applicant's Attorney Matthew Ellsworth, # 56,345 regarding placing this application in condition for allowance. The following changes to the claims were agreed upon by Examiner and Applicant's Attorney on 6/3/08.

CLAIM 1 (Currently Amended) A network storage apparatus for connecting a host computer with at least one storage device, comprising:

- a passive backplane having a plurality of data buses including first, second, third, and fourth data buses;

- at least first and second channel interface modules, connected to said passive backplane and adapted to be connected to the host computer and the at least one storage device, that are operational to send and receive storage data to and from the host computer and the at least one storage device and that are operational to selectively transfer the storage data to one or more of said plurality of data buses,
wherein said first channel interface module includes a first bus port and a second bus

port, and said second channel interface module includes a third bus port and a fourth bus port, said first, second, third and fourth bus ports being operable to connect said channel interface modules to said passive backplane; and

at least first and second controller memory modules, connected to said passive backplane, that communicate with said channel interface modules via said passive backplane, and that store and process the storage data transferred to and from said channel interface modules, wherein said first controller memory module includes a first bus interface and a second bus interface, and said second controller memory module includes a third bus interface and a fourth bus interface, said first, second, third and fourth bus interfaces being operable to connect said controller memory modules to said first, second, third and fourth data buses of said passive backplane.

CLAIM 7 (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein:

~~said first channel interface module includes a first bus port and a second bus port, and said second channel interface module includes a third bus port and a fourth bus port, said first, second, third and fourth bus ports being~~ are ~~operable to connect said communication path portion to said passive backplane; and~~

~~said first controller memory module includes a first bus interface and a second bus interface, and said second controller memory module includes a third bus interface and a fourth bus interface, said first, second, third and fourth bus interfaces being operable to connect said controller memory module to said first, second, third and fourth data buses of said passive backplane.~~

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance based on the previously cited prior art and Applicant and Examiner's agreement to amend the claims to further distinguish the claimed invention, therein, independent claim 1 include allowable subject matter and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure, taken individually or in combination, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations having: a passive backplane having a plurality of data buses including first, second, third, and fourth data buses;

at least first and second channel interface modules, connected to said passive backplane and adapted to be connected to the host computer and the at least one storage device, that are operational to send and receive storage data to and from the host computer and the at least one storage device and that are operational to selectively transfer the storage data to one or more of said plurality of data buses, **wherein said first channel interface module includes a first bus port and a second bus port, and said second channel interface module includes a third bus port and a fourth bus port, said first, second, third and fourth bus ports being operable to connect said channel interface modules to said passive backplane; and**

at least first and second controller memory modules, connected to said passive backplane, that communicate with said channel interface modules via said passive backplane, and that store and process the storage data transferred to and from said channel interface modules, **wherein said first controller memory module includes a first bus interface and a second bus interface, and said second**

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controller memory module includes a third bus interface and a fourth bus interface, said first, second, third and fourth bus interfaces being operable to connect said controller memory modules to said first, second, third and fourth data buses of said passive backplane.

The remaining claims 2-4 and 6-9 are allowed by virtue of their dependencies on the independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammara Peyton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4157. The examiner can normally be reached between 6:30 - 4:00 from Monday to Thursday, (I am off every first Friday), and 6:30-3:00 every second Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272- 6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272- 2100.

/Tammara R Peyton/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2182